AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a dip-coated covered stent for use in a body lumen, comprising:

providing a mandrel coated with a biocompatible polymer to form a base coat layer thereon;

providing a plurality of cylindrical stent rings, each of the rings being expandable in a radial direction, each of the rings having a first delivery diameter, and a second implanted diameter, aligned on a common longitudinal axis;

mounting the plurality of cylindrical stent rings onto the mandrel to form a mandrel assembly wherein the rings are spaced an equal distance apart from each other;

depositing the mandrel assembly in a polymer solution to form a dip-coated covered stent such that the rings are fully covered including all surfaces facing said longitudinal axis and all surfaces facing away from said longitudinal axis; and

removing the dip-coated covered stent from the mandrel.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mandrel is formed of a material from the group consisting of teflon (PTFE), nylon, polyimide, polyethylene, and PET.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the polymer solution cures to form the base coat layer of the mandrel prior to mounting the cylindrical rings thereon.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cylindrical rings are formed from a metallic material taken from the group of materials consisting of stainless steel, titanium, nickel titanium, tantalum, gold, cobalt-chromium, platinum, palladium, and iradium.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cylindrical rings are formed from a material taken from the group consisting of liquid crystallin, and liquid crystallin blends with other polymers, ceramics, and ceramic-reinforced polymers.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein flexibility of the stent increases when the distance between the cylindrical rings increases.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the mandrel assembly is deposited in the polymer solution by dip-coating.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible polymer covering the cylindrical rings is taken from the group of polymers consisting of polyurethanes, polyetherurethanes, polyesterurethanes, silicone, thermoplastic elastomer, sulfonated A-BA- type tri-block polymer, polyether-amide thermoplastic elastomer, fluoroelastomers, polyvinyledenefluoride (PVDF) and copolymers of PVDF, fluorosilicone elastomer, styrene-butadiene-styrene rubber, styrene-isoprene-styrene rubber, polybutadiene, polyisoprene, neoprene (polychloroprene), ethylene-propylene elastomer, chlorosulfonated polyethylene elastomer, butyl rubber, polysulfide elastomer, polyacrylate elastomer, nitrile, rubber, a family of elastomers composed of styrene, ethylene, propylene, aliphatic polycarbonate polyurethane, polymers augmented with antioxidants, bioactive polymers augmented with image enhancing materials, ceramics, polymers having a proton (H+) core, polymers augmented with protons (H+), polyester copolymer elastomers, biodegradable polymers, polyethylene, polycaprolactone, PLLA, PLA, PGA, PLGA, polyanhydrids, polyphothazenes, polyorthoesters, Elasteon®, chitosin alginate, collagen, and elastin.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein prior to mounting the cylindrical rings on the polymer coated mandrel, the polymer is cured on the mandrel assembly.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method of dip-coating the mandrel assembly in the polymer solution is repeated until the polymer covering the cylindrical rings attains a thickness of about 25 microns to 200 microns.

11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the cylindrical rings have a thickness of about 25 microns to 350 microns.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein each end of the dip-coated covered stent is trimmed.

13. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a perforated pattern is cut into the dip-coated covered stent.

14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a drug is incorporated within the layer of the biocompatible polymer coating the cylindrical rings.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the drug includes antiplatelets, anticoagulants, antifibrins, antithrombins, and antiproliferatives.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the cylindrical rings consist of three layers, including a primer coat, a middle layer of the polymer with the drug incorporated therein, and a top coat.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the three layers combined have a thickness of about 3 microns to 300 microns.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the middle layer of the polymer with the drug incorporated therein has a thickness of about 2 microns to 150 microns.

19. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein a lumenal side of the rings are asymmetrically coated.

20. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the lumenal side of the rings are asymmetrically coated with at least one of heparin, IIb/IIIa inhibitors, PEG, and hyaluronic acid.

Claims 21-69. (Cancelled)

70. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein all of said cylindrical stent rings are exclusively linked by said polymer.

71. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said polymer is exclusively relied upon to link said cylindrical stent rings to one another.

72. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein only said polymer forms links between any of said cylindrical stent rings.